

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, EFIS

SUBJECT: FAO PROGRAM TO STUDY SOUTHERN OCEAN FISHERIES.

1. FAO STARTED CONSULTATIONS ON THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN FISHERIES SURVEY PROGRAM ON MAY 19 BY HOLDING A MEETING OF INTERESTED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN WHICH THEY DESCRIBED PROGRAM THE TOTAL PROGRAM ENVISAGES A DETAILED STUDY OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN SOUTH OF ROUGHLY 45 DEGREES SOUTH, AN AREA WHICH IS THE LEAST KNOWN FOR ITS LIVING AQUATIC RESOURCES. THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO IMPROVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE NATURE, MAGNITUDE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIVING RESOURCES AND TO ASSIST IN THEIR EXPLOITATION AND UTILIZATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WORLD AS A WHOLE AND OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR. TOTAL COST MAY BE 45 MILLION DOLLARS OVER TEN SEASONS.

2. THIS PROGRAM HAS BACKING OF FAO CONFERENCE AND UNDP AND IS BEING CONDUCTED IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH SCAR (SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH. FOR PREPARATORY STAGE UNDP HAS GRANTED \$225,000 OR 50 MAN-MONTHS OVER A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS. HOWEVER, UNDP HAS PLACED A CEILING OF 6 MAN-MONTHS IN 1976 WHICH HAS SLOWED DOWN PROGRAM, SO UNCLASSIFIED

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IT IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY.

3. MAIN THRUST OF THIS STAGE IS TO SEE WHAT INFORMATION ON SOUTHERN OCEAN, WHICH IS MAINLY GATHERED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EXPENSIVE TOTAL PROGRAM. IN ORDER TO DO THIS DR. N. K. PANIKKAR, VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COCHIN, INDIA, WILL BE VISITING NINE CAPITALS OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES FROM MAY 23-JUNE 28. HE WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON FROM JUNE 22-24 AND NEW YORK FROM JUNE 24-26 TO DISCUSS FAO PROGRAM AND HAS ASKED ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETINGS. SINCE PROGRAM IS STILL SO NEW AND INCHOATE, DR. PANIKKAR SHOULD MEET WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, ANTARCTIC RESEARCH AND POLITICAL EXPERTS, FISHERIES AND DEVELOPMENT.

4. IN BRIEFING SESSION GUINEA REPRESENTATIVE MADE LONG STATEMENTS ON NEED FOR PROTEIN FOR DEVELOPING WORLD, THE TRAINING OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY SCIENTISTS, EQUAL CONTROL OVER PROGRAM BY DC AND LDC COUNTRIES AND NEED FOR NEW ANTARCTIC TREATY BECAUSE AFRICANS CANNOT WORK WITH SOUTH AFRICA. FAO WAS UNSURE IN ITS RESPONSE ON POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT EMPHASIZED POSSIBLE HARVEST OF 50-100 MILLION TONS OF KRILL A YEAR AND HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF 30 MILLION TONS TO MEET FOOD PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS OF WORLD BY 1980. WE UNDERSTAND FROM FAO THAT THAT DESPITE NON-MEMBERSHIP IN FAO, USSR IS COOPERATING IN PROGRAM AND DR. PANIKKAR WILL VISIT MOSCOW.

5. WE ARE POUCHING FAO SUMMARY OF PROJECT TO BYRNES, IO/AGR AND FAO HAS SENT SOME MATERIAL TO DR. J. STORER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES. WE CAN TRANSMIT ADVICE TO DR. PANIKKAR UNTIL JUNE 3 HERE IN ROME.VOLPE

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